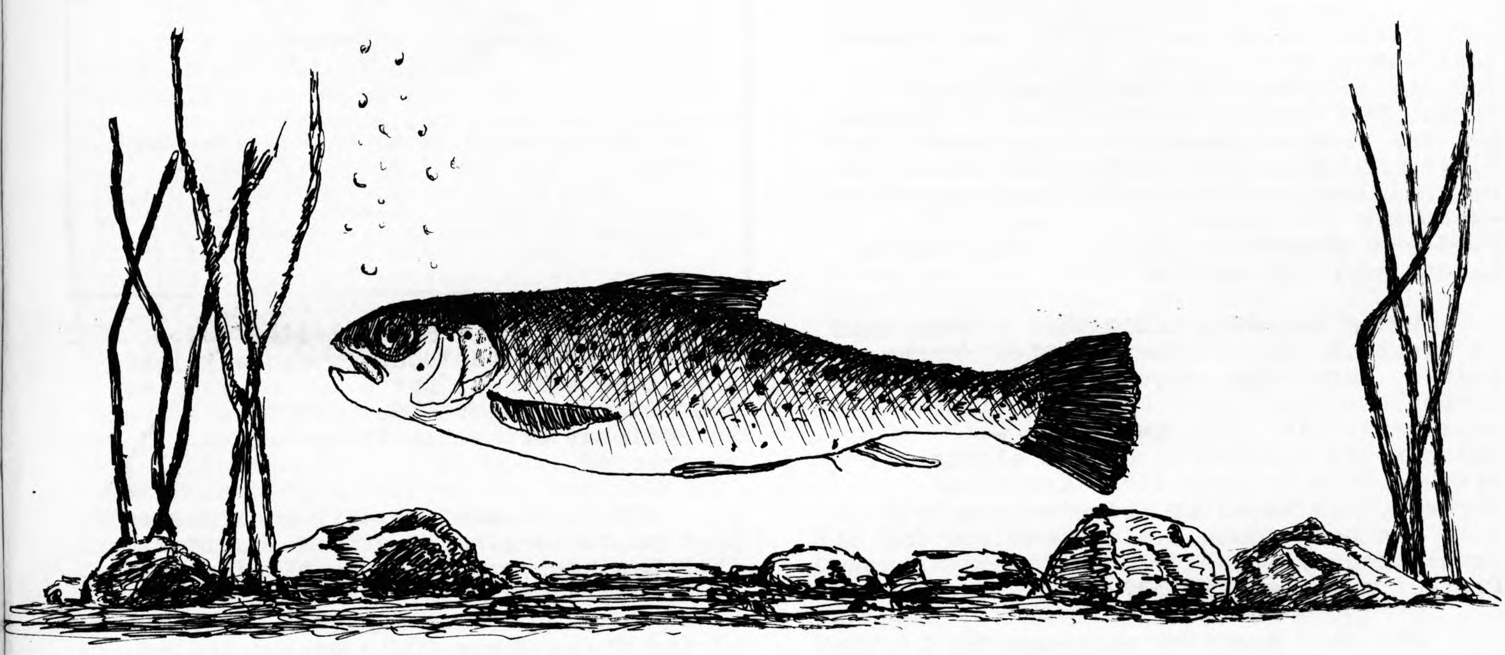
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

citizens' bulletin

Volume 3 Number 6 February, 1976



DEP Tests for PCB's

The Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has announced an extensive state/federal program to analyze the levels, potential effects, and sources of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) in Connecticut rivers and coastal waters. The program includes monitoring bottom sediments and fish samples, and conducting industrial surveys and inspections. "Based on the results of the monitoring and inspection program, we will determine whether any additional controls are necessary to prevent PCB's from entering our waters," Commissioner Gill said.

The term PCB's refers to a class of compounds that resemble DDT in structure and are extremely persistent in the environment. Though less toxic than DDT, PCB's are more resistant to breakdown

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and can only be destroyed by incineration above 2700 degrees fahrenheit. PCB's have been shown to cause skin lesions, reproductive failures and liver cancer in laboratory animals.

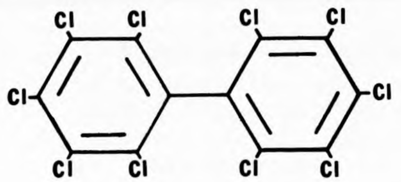
Researchers believe that, like DDT, PCB's may concentrate as they move through food chains: from river sediments to organisms that live and feed on the bottom, to fish that eat the organisms, to birds and mammals that eat the fish. This concentration phenomenon occurs because an individual animal at one level in the food chain eats many animals from the level below it.

Public awareness of PCB's was sparked last summer when it was disclosed that the General Electric Company at Glens Falls, New York was discharging 30 pounds per day of the substance to the Hudson River, and that fish taken downstream of the plant contained PCB levels greatly exceeding the amount set by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as the safety level in edible fish.

Prior to 1971, PCB's were widely used in plastics, epoxy glue, lacquer resins, paints, varnishes, fire retardants, inks, carbonless copy paper and electrical equipment. In 1971, their use was voluntarily limited to closed electrical systems such as capacitors and transformers, for which no acceptable substitute has been found. All other use was prohibited by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1972.

The only American manufacturer of the clear, viscous fluids is the Monsanto Chemical Corporation in Illinois, which makes 99% of the PCB's used in the United States. The rest are imported.

The State testing of PCB's will include sediment sampling, fish sampling and an industrial survey. According to DEP's Director of Water Compliance, Robert Taylor, "We have found PCB's in various areas of the State and will initially concentrate on those areas in which higher PCB levels were found. Our purpose is to see where the chemical moves in a river basin and if there is a correlation between concentrations found in the sediment and fish that live there. We'll also try to identify and eliminate potential sources, but a lot of what we see today may be residue of PCB's trapped in sediment before their use was restricted."

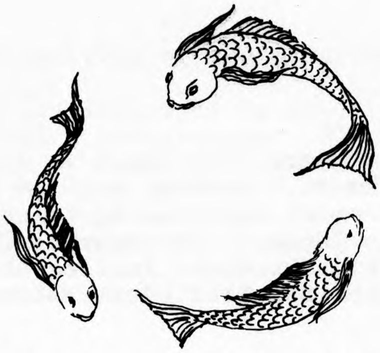


The PCB molecule: up to 10 chlorine atoms bonded to two phenyl rings. Hence the name, poly-chlorinated bi-phenyl. The molecule is highly resistant to physical, chemical or biological breakdown.

Sediment sampling will continue as part of the regular pesticide monitoring that has been conducted by DEP and the U. S. Geological Survey since 1974. The Program has now been expanded in three of the areas where PCB's were found in sediments: the Park River in Hartford, Still River in Danbury, and the Quinnipiac River near Meriden. Bottom samples have been taken and, according to Taylor, "we should have the results in a couple of months."

Taylor said that fish sampling will be done by DEP in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Health, who will provide the laboratory analysis. Freshwater fish are being taken from the Upper Housatonic River, Lake Lillinonah, the Park River, the Connecticut River and the Quinnipiac River. Salt-water fish are being taken from the mouths of the Niantic, Housatonic and Connecticut Rivers and from Stamford Harbor. So far, results from the Niantic River fish have been completed and show PCB levels of 2 PPM in fish flesh and 0.35 PPM in fish skin, well below the FDA standard of 5 PPM.

An industrial PCB survey is being conducted in cooperation with the New England Regional Office of EPA. Monsanto has provided a list of its six PCB customers in New England, including one company in Connecticut, four in Massachu-



setts, and one in Vermont. According to EPA, these companies will be inspected and their discharges sampled by the end of February.

In addition, EPA has sent our survey forms to all potential users of PCB's in New England -- 84 in all, 10 in Connecticut. If the information provided indicates the possibility of PCB contamination, a team of inspectors will be sent to the site to examine operations and take effluent samples. EPA is also monitoring landfills, drinking water supplies and selected municipal incinerators throughout New England for possible sources of PCB contamination.

The only known PCB user in Connecticut is the Universal Manufacturing Corporation in Bridgeport. Last month the company submitted self-monitoring data to DEP which showed trace amounts of PCB in its intake water, as well as higher levels in its discharged cooling water. According to Taylor, "we have ordered the plant to conduct further tests and to isolate possible PCB sources. EPA inspectors have visited the plant and have taken samples of the intake water and discharges. The results are not available yet."

PCB sampling has been conducted in Connecticut by DEP for the past two years and by independent agencies since 1969. The highest PCB level that has been found in river sediment is .35 PPM from the Connecticut River in 1972. Water monitoring was conducted by the United States Geological Survey from 1971-73, but discontinued because "measureable levels of PCB in the water were rarely found," according to Taylor. "We are concentrating primarily on sediments because that is where the PCB's settle out," he said.

Fish samples taken in Connecticut have been generally low in PCB's, but comparatively high values were found in yellow perch taken from the Connecticut River by the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Testing Station in 1969. In a 1975 Department of Health survey, two striped bass taken from the Long Island Sound showed levels of 4.2 and 5.7 PPM. The Department of Health further reports that yearly samples of shellfish taken from coastal waters over the past 4 years show levels no higher than 0.2 PPM.

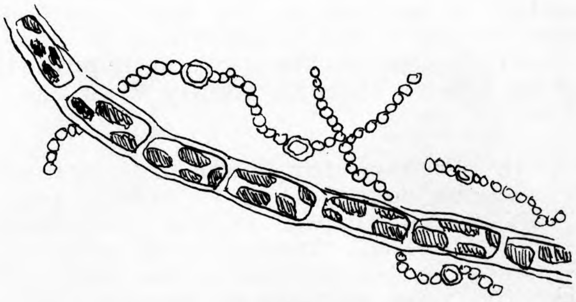
Other sediment PCB levels found have shown .18 PPM in the Thames River, .2 PPM in the Quinnipiac, .25 PPM in Stamford Harbor, .13 PPM in the Upper Housatonic and .24 PPM in Lake Lillinonah.

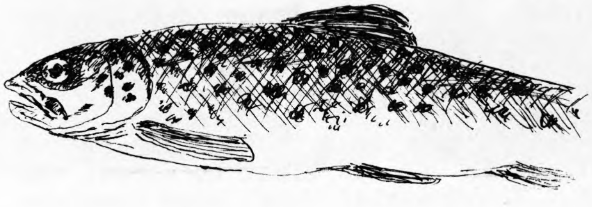
According to Taylor, "It appears likely that muds act as PCB sinks. Levels rise in Lake Lillinonah because it acts as a settling basin for PCB's from the GE plant upstream on the Housatonic River."

The General Electric Company, located on the Housatonic River in Pittsfield, Massachusetts is the only registered PCB outfall in New England, discharging an average of 4 ounces per day.

General Electric in Pittsfield removes most of its PCB's by high temperature incineration. According to EPA, that portion that is discharged "is dissolved in the water and cannot be removed by any known process."

EPA has recorded PCB levels of over 130 PPM in sediment downstream of the General Electric outfall in Pittsfield and up to 34 PPM in fish. Levels recorded in the Housatonic River in Connecticut show .14 PPM (more than one thousand times lower than the concentrations found in Massachusetts). The Housatonic Valley Association sampled two fish from the river in Connecticut in 1975 and found no trace of PCB's.





Court affirms DEP powers

A recent Connecticut Supreme Court decision has affirmed the Department's power to obtain injunctions against polluters under the Connecticut Water Pollution Control Act.

In Water Resources Commission v. Connecticut Sand and Stone Corp. (Conn. Law Journal, December 23, 1975) the Supreme Court upheld injunctions issued by the Hartford County Superior Court restraining Connecticut Sand and Stone from polluting the Farmington River in Farmington and Lake Garda in Burlington.

Assistant Attorney General Richard Webb, who represented the state in the Supreme Court, said the case represents "an important judicial reaffirmation of the procedure established by the law for the state to seek immediate court relief in appropriate water pollution cases."

Section 25-54n of the General Statutes authorizes the state to obtain an injunction against a polluter when a water pollution abatement order is violated.

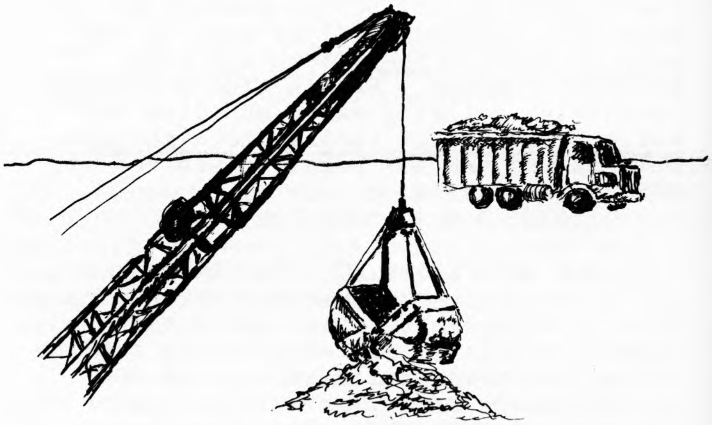
The case stemmed from three orders issued in 1970 by the former Water Resources Commission (now the Water Compliance Unit of DEP) to the Connecticut Sand and Stone Corporation to abate pollution from sandwashing operations and sand and gravel excavation. Under Section 25-54o of the General Statutes, the company had the right to request a hearing to appeal the order within 30 days of receiving it.

When the company failed to comply with the order, and after the appeal period had passed, the Water Resources Commission applied to the Hartford County Superior Court for injunctions to permanently restrain the firm from polluting and to compel them to comply with the order.

In the Superior Court proceedings, the company denied that it had failed to comply and claimed it was not causing water pollution. They offered evidence to support these defenses, but the Superior Court refused to accept it, ruling that since the issue of pollution had already been decided by the Water Resources Commission, the court had no authority under the statute to take evidence on that issue. In not requesting a hearing within 30 days the company had in effect waived its right to appeal the order. The Superior Court held that the Water Resources Commission had met the requirements of the statute, and granted the injunctions.

The company then appealed to the Supreme Court, claiming that the Superior Court had erred in refusing to accept the offer of evidence. The Supreme Court, in an opinion by Chief Justice House, affirmed the Superior Court decision saying:

> "To allow the defendant to present at the hearing on the application for an injunction evidence in support of its special defenses would be contrary to the obvious intent of the General Assembly... and would render the administrative process meaningless."



According to Assistant Attorney General Webb, "the importance of this case is that it not only sustains what has been achieved in the past, but also preserves an important tool for the future as we strive for clean water. The citizens of the year 2000 are the ones who will really benefit from this decision."

Connecticut Sand and Stone has shut down operations for the winter. Should they fail to comply with the pollution abatement order when they reopen in the spring, they will be in contempt of court.

Camping applications due

Applications are now being accepted for camping in Connecticut state parks and forests from May 15 through Labor Day. Applications must be made on the 1976 reservation forms, available from DEP's Parks and Recreation Unit.

Camping reservations may be made for a minimum of two nights and a maximum of 14. An interim period of seven days is required between each stay, no matter how long the duration of the previous stay.

Applications will be accepted for the following campgrounds: Black Rock State Park, Thomaston; Devil's Hopyard State Park, East Haddam; Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison; Hopeville Pond State Park, Jewett City, Housatonic Meadows State Park, Cornwall Bridge; Kettletown State Park, Southbury.

Also, Lake Waramaug State Park and Macedonia Brook State Park, both in Kent; Mashamoquet Brook State Park, Pomfret Center; Rocky Neck State Park, Niantic; Taylor Brook Campground, Winchester; and American Legion State Forest, Pleasant Valley.

The official camping season opens April 15 and ends September 30, except for Lake Waramaug State Park, which does not open until May 15.

From April 15 to May 14 and from Labor Day to September 30, the camp lots are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

After May 15, reservations may be mailed directly to the chosen campground.

Applications are available by writing or calling the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, Parks and Recreation Unit, Hartford, Connecticut 06115, telephone 566-2304.

Conservation Officer of the Year

Conservation Officer Donald F. Prussia has received the 1975 Shikar-Safari Club Award as Connecticut's Wildlife Officer of the Year, commending him for "work and dedication in practicing sound conservation principles." The award was presented on January 6 by Warren Page, President of National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc., for the Shikar-Safari Club International.

Mr. Prussia received the award for the extensive off-duty work he has done on conservation projects with youth groups and other organizations in eastern Connecticut.

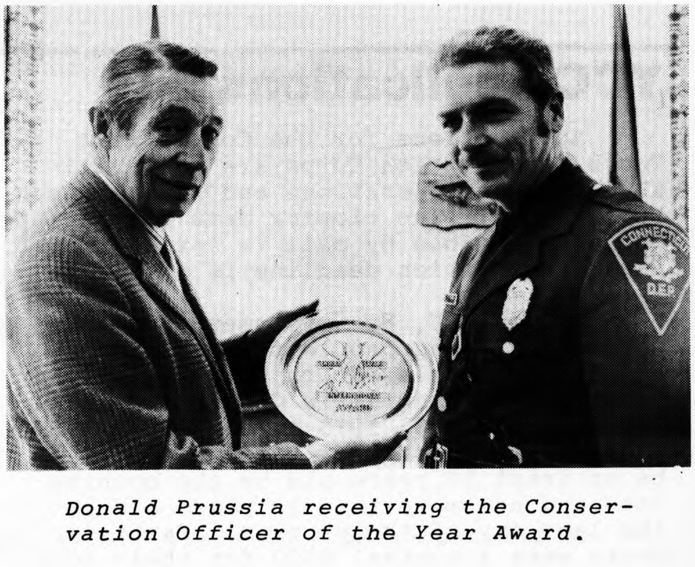
In recommending Prussia for the award Frederick Pogmore, Chief of DEP's Law Enforcement Division, said, "Mr. Prussia gives himself unselfishly to the Department and the communities within his patrol area. His work has done much to make Region IV an environmentally sound region."

Since March 1969, Mr. Prussia has served as a Conservation Officer, Grade 1, in DEP's Region IV, covering eastern Connecticut. During that time he has frequently been commended by community officials and private organizations. Recently he presented a series of outdoor and wildlife talks and conducted related tours for college students at the 4-H camp in Pomfret.

Shikar-Safari Club International presented Mr. Prussia with a citation and plaque. They also made a contribution in his name to the National Foundation for Conservation and Environmental Officers, an organization that provides financial assistance to the survivors of wildlife personnel who have lost their lives in the performance of duty.

A Printer's Guild master craftsman, Mr. Prussia was employed for over eight years by Connecticut Printers, Inc. He is a nationally certified scuba diver and has worked with such youth organizations as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and 4-H Clubs.

Donald Prussia lives in Pomfret Center with his wife, Barbara, and four children. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. John L. Prussia of South Windsor. He attended Wethersfield High School and served in the United States Navy from 1956-60.



Donald Prussia receiving the Conservation Officer of the Year Award.

Connecticut's Iron Hills Heritage

Scattered in the Litchfield Hills of Northwestern Connecticut are the remains of an iron industry that once played a major role in the economic, social and political development of the state. Although the area was once a major source of iron for the country, now only a handful of its 50 furnaces retain any resemblance to their former appearance.

The preservation of these remaining furnaces is the subject of a report prepared by DEP's Planning and Coordination Unit entitled Northwestern Iron Hills Heritage. The report focuses on the restoration and recreation potential of the area, and is part of the DEP bicentennial year monographs on Connecticut's heritage.

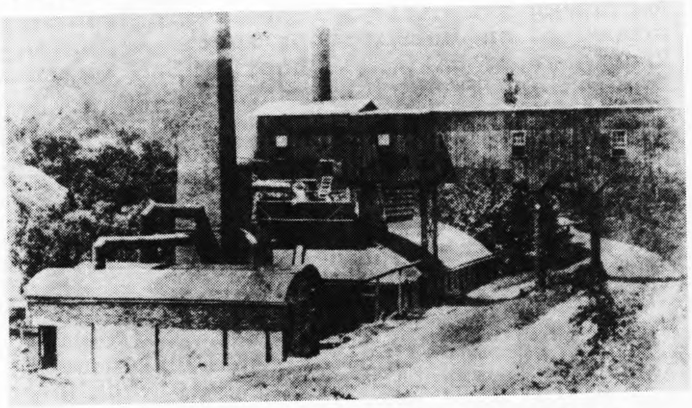
The report summarizes the growth and decline of the Connecticut iron industry, from the opening of the first open pit mine in 1730, to the decline of the industry in the mid 19th century when producers ran short of charcoal. In the intervening years northwestern Connecticut became a major iron producer for the country, producing over 2,000 tons per year at the Salisbury furnace alone, and supplying the iron to outfit the USS Constitution, "Old Ironsides." Swiss and Lithuanians were imported to work in the Salisbury mines and blast furnaces; and Mount Riga, site of the most active furnace, became the wealthiest village in the area.

Now most of the furnaces are gone. The region's last operating furnace shut down in 1923, and the relics have been torn down, vandalized or eroded over time.

Of the five furnaces in Northwestern Connecticut that are still partially intact, the report makes recommendations for the use of three: partial restoration of the Beckley Furnace in East Canaan, creation of an iron museum at the Kent Furnace in North Kent and establishing a park area at Mine Hill in Roxbury. According to the report all development will be in keeping with the rural nature of the area, "based on the local community's existing character, plans and goals."

The DEP has already begun to partially restore the Beckley Furnace, which the state maintains. The work is aimed at eliminating the vandalism which occurs at the site and restoring the appearance of the furnace itself.

The Iron Hills Heritage report was prepared by Jonathan Clapp of the DEP Planning and Coordination Unit. Limited copies are available by writing the Planning and Coordination Unit, Room 118, DEP.



The Beckley Furnace as it appeared in the early 1900's.

YCC applications due

Applications for the Connecticut Youth Conservation Corps are now available from the Operations and Maintenance Unit of DEP. The closing date for obtaining applications by mail is April 9, 1976. Final application deadline is April 15.

YCC is a U. S. Government program sponsoring young people to work in conservation-related projects during the summer. The program in Connecticut will run from June 28, 1976 through August 20, and is open to state residents who will be at least 15 years old by the opening date and not more than 19 years old by the last day of the program. Participants earn a nominal $500 for their work during the eight-week period.

The Corps will employ a total of 160 people this summer, 54 more than last year, because of a significant increase in federal grant monies available to the state. Work projects will include wildlife management, forestry, park and recreation area development and maintenance, and fish management.

This year, for the first time, Connecticut is offering a residential program in addition to its non-residential mobile teams. The state will operate a coed camp for 30 young people in the Meshomasic State Forest in Portland. The U. S. Department of the Interior will operate a coed camp for 10 participants

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Conservation Commission Corner

by Gay Ewing
Connecticut Assoc. of Conservation Commissions

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT! On March 29 the Connecticut Association of Conservation Commissions will sponsor a workshop on "Town Programs for Wetlands and Waterways." The purpose of the workshop will be to exchange ideas among conservation commission members and experts about preserving open space areas, marshlands, swamps and wetlands.

Following a general discussion on legislation the group will be divided into small discussion groups covering the topics of "Land Acquisition," "Flood Control," "DEP Programs", and "Building a Constituency for a River." Leaders of each group will be experts from DEP, Conservation Commissions, Land Trusts, and private conservation groups.

"The Town Program for Wetlands and Waterways" will be held on March 29 at the Holiday Inn in Meriden, with registration beginning at 12:30 p.m. There will be an afternoon session at 1 p.m. and an evening session at 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30. The program has been arranged so you can attend just one session or the whole program. As this is an education program directly related to local programs, commission members can charge expenses to their budget.

TOWNS WITHOUT COMMISSIONS The following towns do not have conservation commissions: Beacon Falls, Canterbury, Colebrook, East Haven, Franklin, Hartford, Hartland, Killingly, New Haven, Scotland, Sterling, Union, Voluntown, Waterbury, Windham, Windsor Locks and New London.

* * *

Does the conservation commission receive its fair share of the town's budget? From my observations I would say no. The two most common reasons might be: (a) that the commission has not expanded its program so that it requires more than a minimum amount to run its operation; (b) that the commission does not get full credit for the work it is doing, and finds it difficult to persuade the town to provide the funds it needs to run an effective program. A commission with commissioners who spend a great deal of time and energy on a program may do a good job with a small budget, but if the commission is to take its place as a viable force, it should receive the kind of support that is given to other boards and commissions in the town.

APPLICATION: WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS WORKSHOP March 29, 1976
Holiday Inn, East Main St., Meriden (at junction of Wilbur Cross Parkway and I-91)

Number( ) will attend the workshop. Registration only ( ) Registration and Dinner ( )

Name(S)______________________________________

Address______________________________________

Town C. C. Land Trust Inland Wetlands Other

Pre-registration	$3.00 per person	Dinner $7.00	Both $ 8.00
At the door	$5.00 per person	Dinner $8.00	Both $10.00

Make check payable to:

Connecticut Association of Conservation Commissions, Inc.
P. O. Box 571
Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

Pre-registration must reach C.A.C.C. by March 26, 1976. There will be a cash bar at 5:30 p.m. Evening guests are welcome.

Trailside Botanizing

by G. Winston Carter

PIPSISSEWA
(Chimaphila umbellata)

Our general impression of low growing plant life in the woods in winter is that it has died down and that it is no longer an object of interest. This is generally true, but there are a number of ferns and low growing plants that still remain green and can give the winter hiker something to look for besides the various shrubs and trees that are more obvious. One such intriguing plant is Pipsissewa. This plant is common to New England and a number of other parts of the world. In fact, plant explorers have found that it is circumpolar.

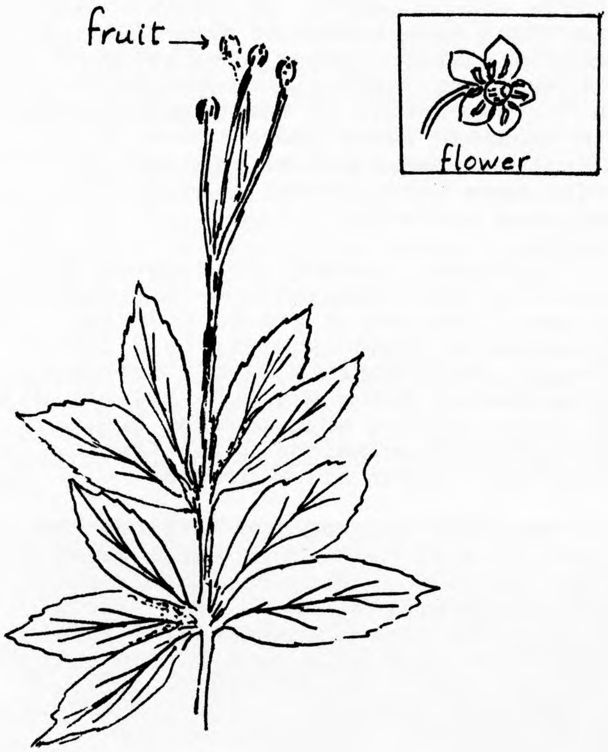
Pipsissewa is usually found in dry woods under evergreen trees such as pine and hemlock. The waxy, slightly toothed leaves appearing in whorls catch the eye at all seasons of the year. During June through August it also produces waxy white or pink flowers that are somewhat inconspicuous. The fruit is a small round brownish capsule that reaches maturity in late summer.

Chimaphila, the plant's generic name, describes it well. The word is a combination of two Greek words: cheima meaning "winter," and phelein, "to love." The common name "wintergreen" was given to the plant in England and Europe long before it was discovered in America.

In America wintergreen took on the Algonquin Indian name of Pipsissewa, or Prince's Pine, while in Cree Indian language the name means "juice breaks stone in bladder into small pieces," implying the belief that it was effective in treating bladder or kidney stones.

The leaves are refreshing when chewed and have been used in making root beer. It was also popular with the medical profession in the early 1800's for treating aches and pains.

Mr. Carter is a botanist who teaches at Eastern High School in Bristol. A naturalist with the National Audubon Society, he also writes articles on botany and ecology for the Bristol Press.



Drawing by Pamela Carter.

YCC APPLICATIONS

(continued from pg. 6)

in the Salt Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Westbrook. The rest of the 160 enrollees will live at home and commute to project sites daily.

Selection of participants will be made at random by computer. Applicants should note that the number of applications is expected to be much greater than the number of positions available.

Applications and complete information may be obtained by writing to:

State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protectio
Operations and Maintenance - YCC
Hartford, Connecticut 06115

university of connecticut

INSTITUTE OF WATER RESOURCES

Citizen Participation Urged

Part of the federal regulations that created the Institute of Water Resources also requires that the staff submit a yearly summary of problem areas and research needs in Connecticut to the U. S. Department of Interior. In October 1975, the staff submitted the following summary to the Department of the Interior, and now seeks public comment before it is used in the U. S. Congress in defense of future budget allocations.

Upland Flood Protection

Storage ponds on upland streams can provide an effective control for flash floods that result from intense rainstorms. Research is needed into the effectiveness of protective structures and conservation ponds in terms of flood control and soil erosion.

Underground Aquifers

The environmental plan for Connecticut recommends that rather than construct new reservoirs, supply be drawn from underground aquifers. Aquifers are areas of water-saturated strata, most of which lie below rivers in gravel deposits. Research is needed into the storage capacity of aquifers and into the effects of sewage effluents and collection systems on aquifers.

Out-of-Basin Diversion

Allocation of river water out of the basin is a current and future problem both for water supply and power plant cooling. Research is needed in river modeling as well as in legal and management areas.

Groundwater Leachates

Groundwater leachates and toxicity will continue as a major problem due to seepage from septic systems, incinerator and power plant ash disposal, and landfill areas. Research is needed on physical, chemical and biological behavior of leachates.

Wastewater Treatment Methods

Because of the high level of industrialization in Connecticut, waste treatment methods are a major concern. Research is needed into the methods of measuring and removing nitrogen compounds, phosphorous, heavy metals, chlorinated hydrocarbons, and other pollutants both at the treatment plant and from lakes and rivers.

Wetlands

The wetlands problem continues to be a complicated and demanding issue as legislation has been passed for both coastal and inland wetlands that requires interpretation. Research is needed on groundwater flow, plant behavior, ecology, etc. Workable legal and institutional standards are required.

Estuaries and Salt Marshes

Estuaries serve as passageways for the transport of oil and heavy goods, as well as exits for rivers and habitats for marine life. Research is needed on the effects of oil spills, influence of pollutants, flow, ecology, and biology. Land-use control is a critical problem for the salt marshes.

The Eutrophication of Lakes

Lake water quality and its management is a high priority problem. Research is needed on all facets of lake management such as land-use and urbanization which affect eutrophication and the ecological behavior of lakes.

River Studies

The problems are diverse in character on rivers. Measurements of physical, chemical, and biological conditions and their relationship to the land-use and urbanization need to be looked at. Flood plains should be studied from a management point of view.

Storm Water Discharges

The problem of urban storm water discharges requires a great deal of study since all of Connecticut's heavily urbanized areas are located on rivers. Some of these have combined storm and sanitary sewers and are concerned about

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from the field

by Douglas Starr

We parked behind a seafood restaurant on a rise overlooking the estuary. Quietly rolling down the window, the man raised a rifle stock and aimed it at a flock of ducks feeding in shallow water. "Quiet now," he said. "I want to get them all before they move." He began to move his lips, counting.

He never pulled a trigger.

The man was not a hunter, but a biologist. And the thing he was pointing at the ducks was not a gun, but a twenty power telescope mounted on a rifle stock.

"I'd estimate about 2000 black ducks," he said, "another 50 scaup and six swans." He wrote down the numbers on a portable file and desk he had made to fit in the front seat of the car.

Tom Hoehn (pronounced "Hane") is an estuarine biologist for DEP's Region 5 office, the coastal region of Connecticut. One day per week during the winter months he surveys waterfowl found along the coast from New Haven to Milford. Observing birds from the car window, it took us five hours and twenty stops to survey 25 coastal miles.

"We do most of the survey by car," Hoehn said, "or we'd never get it done. Occasionally we do get out for a closer look, though."

There are twenty species of birds itemized on Tom's checklist, but the one he is most interested in is the scaup. The scaup is a duck of average size, colored black and white in males, brown in females, with a broad blue bill. The ones we saw spend their summers in Alaska and migrate to Long Island Sound for the winter. They are also the subject of a three-year state study financed in part by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

According to Hoehn, scaup on Long Island Sound were once so plentiful that "at times you couldn't see the water for the birds." Though still "more numerous than all other ducks on the Sound combined," their numbers have been decreasing, especially over the last five years. Hoehn said this decline may be due to natural population cycles similar to ones that occur in other birds, "though we haven't determined how long this cycle will take."

The three-year scaup study is aimed at learning about the wintering behavior of the birds: where they go and what they eat. In addition to the sight survey from October to March, Hoehn analyzes stomach contents of birds taken by hunters.

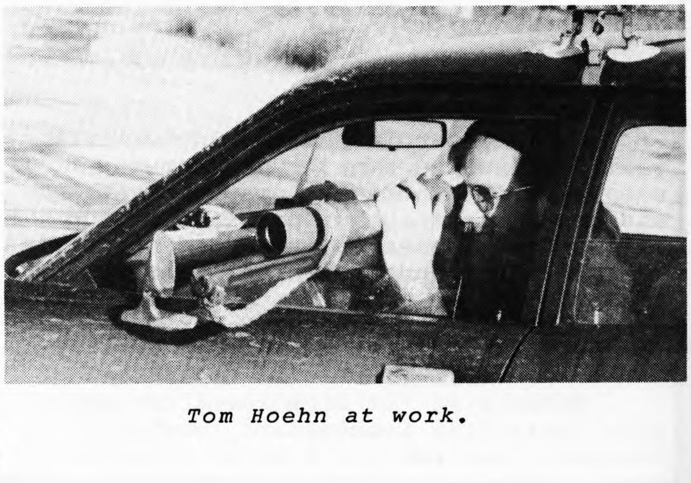
So far Hoehn notes that scaup are now on the rise. "They seem to have hit a low point last year," he said. "Already this year we found twice as many as during all of last winter. There are also more immature birds, and this indicates continued population growth."

Stomach content analyses have also been revealing.

"In almost every duck we opened the predominant food was sea lettuce," Hoehn said. "The second most common thing was gravel and bits of shell in the gizzard that the ducks eat for ballast and food grinding. The gizzard is an extremely muscular organ, and loaded with gravel, sand and bits of shell, the birds can practically grind up a hickory nut."

The third substance, though not frequently found in the birds' stomachs, was the remains of small clams and shellfish, eaten whole and ground up in the gizzards.

Though we sighted more than 2000 ducks at our first stop in New Haven Harbor, the numbers we saw the rest of the day were far less than average. Hoehn said the blizzard the day before



Tom Hoehn at work.

had driven most of them inland.

At our last stop, Wheeler Wildlife Management Area in Milford, an old man came out to our car and asked what we were doing there. Tom explained that we were taking a bird survey and the man's face softened.

"You won't see anything today," he said. "Too cold," and he walked back to his house.

Tom looked out over the tidal marsh, then peered more closely with the telescope.

"Fifty Canada Geese," he said. "They're out there, if you look for them."

Call us if you see one

The Wildlife Unit of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is asking that anyone sighting a wild turkey in Litchfield County contact the DEP Regional Headquarters in Pleasant Valley.

As part of a program to re-establish the eastern wild turkey in Connecticut, wildlife biologists last year released 22 hens and toms in the Norfolk-Canaan area. The turkeys are wild birds, livetrapped in New York State and donated by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The DEC has made similar releases of its own on the New York side of the state boundary line near Kent and Salisbury.

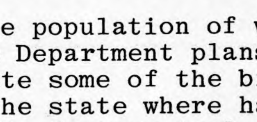
According to Steve Jackson, regional wildlife biologist in charge of the turkey program, there is evidence that the birds released last year in Connecticut reproduced and that the population entering this winter season is substantially larger than the 22 released last winter.

"We request that anyone fortunate enough to see these turkeys not disturb them. Our experience has shown that often man's good intentions are the worst things for the wild turkeys. While we would like to know if anyone sights one of the birds, we are not asking for volunteers to search for them. And we definitely do not want snowmobilers to go looking for them," he said.

Jackson said that well-intentioned feeding attempts likewise would be detrimental to the birds. If people feed the turkeys, the birds will become somewhat tame and if that happens, they will become vulnerable to predation by wild and domestic animals and poachers. He also urged people with penned turkeys not to release them into the wild. He said that if the wild birds interbreed with penned birds, their offspring will not have the genetic material necessary for survival in the wild, which could jeopardize the future of the newly established turkey population.

If the population of wild turkeys grows, the Department plans to livetrap and relocate some of the birds in other areas of the state where habitat conditions are suitable for survival. However, even if all goes well, it will take several years to re-establish the turkey throughout the state.

Jackson asked that anyone with information on the birds call him at 379-0771 or write him at the DEP Region I Headquarters, P. O. Box 161, Pleasant Valley, Connecticut 06063. He said that the birds stocked last year can be identified by an orange wing tag, and added that he would be most interested in knowing the specific number and sex of any wild turkeys seen and the exact location of their sighting. Adult males can be distinguished from females by their "beards," a growth of hair-like feathers hanging from the bird's chest.



Fly fishermen present award

The Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association has presented its Annual Conservation Award to Mr. Donald W. Davis, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Stanley Works, New Britain, Conn.

Mr. Davis was instrumental in the planning and construction of the fishladder over the Rainbow Dam on the lower Farmington River. This fishladder will open the upper Farmington River to spawning shad, and hopefully in time to the Atlantic Salmon.

According to the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association, "Mr. Davis provided the leadership and perseverance necessary to see this important conservation project through to completion. The Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association is happy to recognize Mr. Davis's outstanding contribution to Connecticut conservation."

This month our editorship is changing hands. Mary Ann Dickinson will devote her full time to serving as legislative liaison for DEP. You may reach her at 566-3740 for legislative information.

INSTITUTE OF WATER RESOURCES

(continued from pg. 9)

the need for separated systems. Research is needed into the handling of surges in treatment plants and other system approaches.

Rural and Unsewered Areas

There is a great deal of interest on a national scale in the development of improved methods for dealing with liquid wastes from farms and individual homes. Most of Connecticut is concerned with this problem. Research is needed into the regulation of farmyard runoff and organic residues. Work is also needed in developing new domestic wastewater systems.

If you have found these statements of interest and would care to comment, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Please address any correspondence to: Director, Institute of Water Resources, U-37, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut 06268

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